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The Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities is a vital program for many Illinois residents with disabilities to help them maintain their independence. This brochure explains the provisions of the program.

The fraudulent use of Disability license plates and parking placards is a matter I take very seriously. As a participant of the program, it is imperative that you do not allow others to use your placard or plates without being present. Violators are subject to fines, and your placard may be confiscated and/or revoked for misuse.

When people abuse this program, they not only break the law but disrespect the disability community. My goal is to ensure that those who qualify for the program have the access they deserve.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact the Persons with Disabilities Placard/ Plate Unit.

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Jesse White
Illinois Secretary of State



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Program Eligibility

Effective Jan. 1, 2002, to qualify for the Secretary of State's Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities, an applicant must have one of the following five specific medical conditions: ("Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest" is no longer a qualifying disability, unless it is related to one of these conditions.)

- Cannot walk without the assistance of another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device.
- Be restricted by lung disease to such a degree that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume (FEV) in 1 second, when measured by spirometry, is less than 1 liter.
- Must use portable oxygen.
 - Have Class III or Class IV cardiac condition according to standards set by the American Heart Association.
- Be severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.

Parking Privileges

Parking placards are NOT transferable. Parking privileges apply only when the authorized holder of Disability license plates or a parking placard is present and is entering and/or exiting the vehicle while parked in the designated parking area, or in an area where meter time restrictions and fees are waived.

Vehicles properly displaying a parking placard or Disability license plates are exempt from parking meter fees or time limitations except at meters, signs or other markings with time limitations of 30 minutes or less.

Parking placards do not permit vehicles to park in areas where parking is prohibited. Vehicles also are prohibited from parking in any manner that creates a traffic hazard.

Parking Placards

There are three types of placards available from the Secretary of State's office.

- Permanent placards are blue and issued to persons with a permanent disability. They are valid for up to four years and expire on the last day of the holder's birth month in 2006.
- Temporary placards are red and valid for the length of time indicated by the certifying physician, not to exceed six months if issued by the Secretary of State, and 90 days if issued by a local municipality.
- Organization placards are green and issued to organizations that transport persons with disabilities. These placards are valid for four years and expire April 30, 2006.

To receive a new placard, you must submit a new application with a physician's certification verifying disability.

Proper Display of Placards

Because a parking placard is issued to the authorized holder and not to a vehicle, it may be used in any vehicle in which the holder is driving or is a passenger. When parked, the placard must be properly displayed in one of the following locations so it is clearly visible to law enforcement:

- Hanging from the rearview mirror or
- Placed on the dashboard

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Failure to properly display a parking placard can result in a fine.

Remember to remove the placard before the vehicle is in motion to prevent damage or excessive exposure to sun. Also, the placard can obstruct the driver's view if left hanging from the mirror.

Disability License Plates

Persons with permanent disabilities may obtain Disability license plates for vehicles titled in their name. An immediate family member residing in the same household may obtain up to two sets of plates if the qualifying person with disabilities does not own a vehicle and must rely on someone else for transportation.

Corporations, school districts, limited liability companies, nursing homes, convalescent homes and special education cooperatives transporting eligible persons may obtain Disability plates as well.

Penalties for Misuse

It is illegal to:

- Park in an access aisle the vertical lines adjacent to the parking space for persons with disabilities. The access aisle reserves room for persons with disabilities to safely enter and exit their vehicle. You can be ticketed for parking in an access aisle.
- Use a parking placard or Disability license plates if the holder is not present. State law requires that the authorized holder of the



placard or license plates be present when parking privileges are used. Abuse may result in a minimum \$100 fine.

 Park in a metered space using a placard or license plate if the authorized holder is not present. Abuse may result in a minimum \$100 fine and revocation of the placard or plate.

Following are Class A misdemeanors and may result in fines of up to \$1,000 and a 30-day driver's license suspension:

- Providing false information on an application
- Assisting someone in providing false information on an application
- Loaning a placard for someone to park illegally in an accessible space
- Altering a placard

Following are Class 4 felonies and may result in a \$10,000 fine and a 30-day driver's license suspension:

- Using a fraudulent placard
- Making a fraudulent placard
- Selling or otherwise distributing a fraudulent placard

Police may confiscate a placard if they believe it is being used illegally. Police officers have clear authority to enforce parking laws on private property, such as at a mall or grocery store.

Application

- Applications for the Persons with Disabilities Parking Program are available at your local Secretary of State Driver Services facility, at www.cyberdriveillinois.com, or by contacting the Persons with Disabilities License Plate/Placard Unit, 501 S. Second St., Rm. 541, Springfield, IL 62756.
- A licensed physician must certify on the application that you have one of the five specific qualifying disabilities. You also must include your date of birth, gender and driver's license or state I.D. card number.
- If applying for Disability license plates, a copy of the registration card or title is required if the vehicle is registered in the applicant's name. If the vehicle is not registered in the applicant's name, a copy of the Certificate of Title or Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin is required.
- If current plates expire within 90 days, submit:
 - Application for Persons with Disabilities Parking Program
 - Application for reclass to Disability plates
 - \$92 (\$78 renewal fee, \$14 replacement fee – effective January 2004)
- If current plates do not expire within 90 days, submit:
 - Application for Persons with Disabilities Parking Program
 - \$14 replacement fee
- Vanity and personalized Disability plates are available. Call 217-785-6901 for more information

Submit applications to:

Secretary of State Jesse White Persons with Disabilities License Plate/Placard Unit 501 S. Second St., Rm. 541 Springfield, IL 62756 217-782-2709 800-252-2904 (V) 888-261-5280 (TTY)